

REMARKS

The present application is directed to aromatic-based silyl monomers capable of polymerization alone or copolymerization with other monomers to form polymeric compositions having desirable physical characteristics and refractive indices useful in the manufacture of biocompatible ophthalmic devices.

Independent claim 2 and dependent claim 8 have been amended without the addition of new subject matter to correct typographical errors and to more clearly define the subject invention. Support for the amendments to claims 2 and 8 may be found on pages 9 and 11, as well as other locations throughout the specification.

Claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 stand under objection because of informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection of claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24. Claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 have now been amended to correct typographical errors noted. Accordingly, the objection to claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 is no longer appropriate. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The typographical error noted in Claim 8 as now been corrected. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 8 is no longer appropriate. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is thereby respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi, U.S. Patent Number 4,594,401 (hereinafter "Takahashi").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Takahashi discloses the addition of trimethylsilylstyrene as a monomer to be copolymerized with hydrophilic monomers.

To the contrary, the polymeric compositions of the present invention are produced through the polymerization of one or more aromatic-based silyl monomers having a structure defined in the subject claims. The monomer structure defined in the subject claims requires that at least one R_1 group be a group other than a methyl group. Accordingly, the subject polymeric compositions do not cover trimethylsilylstyrene and differ from the teachings of Takahashi. The rejection of claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is thereby inappropriate. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 is respectfully requested.

Based upon the above amendments to the claims and remarks provided herein, applicants believe pending claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 to be allowable. Allowance of pending claims 2-5, 7-9 and 15-24 is therefore respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions regarding this communication, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (636) 226-3340.

Respectfully submitted,



Rita D. Vacca
Reg. No.: 33,624

Correspondence address:
Rita D. Vacca
Bausch & Lomb Incorporated
One Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, New York 14604-2701